

Claim Amendments

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please amend “*Claims*” to “We claim:”

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

22. (New) A swivel mechanism for incorporation between a carriage of a stairlift assembly and a chair of the stairlift assembly, the chair having a pair of spaced sides and a central axis midway between the spaced sides, the swivel mechanism comprising: at least one pivot center about which the chair may swivel with respect to the carriage, the pivot center intersecting with the chair at a point between the central axis and one of the pair of spaced sides.
23. (New) The mechanism of claim 22, in which there are two pivot centers located to intersect with the chair on opposite sides of the central axis, the swivel mechanism being constructed and arranged so that only one pivot center at a time is engaged to define the swivel axis between the carriage and the chair.
24. (New) The mechanism of claim 23, in which engagement of one of the pivot centers to define the swivel axis limits rotation about the other of the pivot centers.
25. (New) The mechanism of claim 23, further comprising an arcuate guide positioned to overlie each of the pivot centers.
26. (New) The mechanism of claim 25, further comprising a control member mounted for rotation on each of the pivot centers, and being engageable with a the guide, the guide being slidable with respect to its control member.
27. (New) The mechanism of claim 26, in which a swivel movement is generated by applying a rotational action to the control member mounted on a first the of pivot centers, against and contacting an edge of the guide, while allowing sliding

movement of the other of the guides over the control member mounted on the second of the pivot centers.

28. (New) The mechanism of claim 26, further comprising a motor for each control member, each motor being operable to rotate its respective control member.
29. (New) The mechanism of claim 28, further comprising interlocking means to disengage one of the motors while the other motor is in operation.
30. (New) The mechanism of claim 28, further comprising means to manually isolate at least one motor from its respective control member.
31. (New) The combination of the stairlift assembly and the swivel mechanism of claim 22.
32. (New) A swivel mechanism, comprising a substantially planar first part; a substantially planar second part arranged substantially parallel to the first part, the first and second parts arranged for rotation with respect to each other about two spaced swivel axes perpendicular to each, and two respective means for defining the swivel axes; in which one means for defining a swivel axis, when not engaged to act as the swivel axis, controls relative rotation of the first and second parts about the other swivel axis.
33. (New) The mechanism of claim 32, in which rotation about each swivel axis is defined by a combination of arcuate guides provided in one of the first or second parts, and control members mounted on the other of the first or second parts, the control members engaging with, and being displaceable with respect to, the arcuate guides.
34. (New) The mechanism of claim 33, further comprising a control member mounted on and pivotable about respective swivel axes.
35. (New) The combination of a stairlift installation including a carriage and a chair, and the swivel mechanism of claim 32 disposed between the carriage and the chair.

36. (New) A swivel mechanism for providing swivel action about two spaced, parallel, axes, the mechanism comprising control members located in, and displaceable with respect to, arcuate guides, in which the swivel action about each axis is effected and controlled by the control members.
37. (New) The mechanism of claim 36, in which the control members are rotatable.
38. (New) The mechanism of claim 36, in which each arcuate guide comprises slots receiving the control members.
39. (New) The combination of a stairlift installation including a carriage and a chair, and the swivel mechanism of claim 36 disposed between the carriage and the chair.
40. (New) A swivel mechanism for a stairlift installation having a carriage and a chair mounted on the carriage, the chair being swivelable from a central position in which a user seated in the chair faces in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of travel of the carriage, to first and second positions in clockwise and a counter- clockwise directions, respectively, from the central position; in which the swivel mechanism comprises a first drive means to swivel the chair between the central position and the first position; and a second drive means to swivel the chair between the central position and the second position.
41. (New) The mechanism of claim 40, in which the chair swivels between the central position and the first position about one spaced swivel axis and, between the central position and the second position about the other spaced swivel axis.
42. (New) The combination of a carriage and chair for a stairlift and the swivel mechanism of claim 40.
43. (New) A swivel mechanism for incorporation between a stairlift carriage and a stairlift chair, the swivel mechanism including at least one motor to rotate the chair with respect to the carriage, the swivel mechanism further comprising a means to manually disengage the swivel mechanism and thus allow the chair to be manually rotated with respect to the carriage.

44. (New) The combination of a carriage and chair for a stairlift and the swivel mechanism of claim 43.